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Selwyn House
Senior Players
present

MACBETH

by

William Shakespeare

Open Dress Rehearsal: April 14, 1983
Performances: April 15, 1983
April 16, 1983

Selwyn House School Gymnasium
95 Cote St. Antoine
Westmount

The Story

On his return from a successful campaign against Norwegian raiders and Scottish rebels in the north of Scotland, Macbeth, accompanied by Banquo, meets three witches who hail him Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, and King of Scotland. They further prophesy that descendants of Banquo will occupy the Scottish throne. Macbeth, already Thane of Glamis, is almost immediately proclaimed Thane of Cawdor in the place of the man King Duncan condemns a traitor. With the vision of the kingship thus almost supernaturally projected toward him, and urged on by his wife, Macbeth murders Duncan while he is a guest in Macbeth's castle. Duncan's son and heir, Malcolm, flees to England.

Macbeth then becomes king, but he is uneasy about the witches' promise to Banquo. Accordingly, he hires assassins to murder Banquo and his son Fleance. At a state banquet, the murderers tell Macbeth that they have murdered Banquo, but that Fleance has escaped.

Macbeth, uneasy again, goes once more to the witches, who tell him he must beware Macduff, a nobleman who has defected to the forces Malcolm has been raising in England to re-claim his throne. In order further to secure his position, Macbeth orders the slaying of Macduff's wife and children. The crimes so affect the queen that she becomes a sleepwalker, and finally, a suicide. Macduff, spurred to vengeance by news of the deaths of his loved ones, lends edge to the siege Malcolm and his confederates then lead to Macbeth's castle, Dunsinane. In the ensuing battle, Macduff slays Macbeth and triumphantly exhibits Macbeth's severed head before the victorious

forces of Malcolm. After Macduff has proclaimed him King of Scotland, Malcolm names his closest allies earls, the first in Scottish history.

The Occasion of

Shakespeare's Macbeth

In the Renaissance tradition of royal pageantry, Shakespeare wrote Macbeth (1606) as a complimentary tribute to James I, who had succeeded Elizabeth I on May 19, 1603. (Formerly James VI of Scotland, James I had hereditary right to the English throne through the marriage of James IV of Scotland [his grandfather] to a daughter of Henry VII.) Immediately after his accession, James undertook the patronage of Shakespeare's company of actors, who, having been called "The Lord Chamberlain's Servants," then took the name "The King's Servants."

No fewer than five of the virtuous characters in Macbeth--Duncan, Malcolm, Siward, Banquo, and Fleance--are direct ancestors to King James. The flourish with which the play celebrates Malcolm's victory over Macbeth underlines the opinion James had published in his Basilikon Doron that kings are ordained by hereditary and divine right as God's lieutenants on earth; an individual ambition like Macbeth's must accordingly have been fostered by the devil.

In the play, the devil's lieutenants, the witches, entrap Macbeth by "lying like the truth," one of the methods of operation James had outlined in his Daemonologie, a treatise on witchcraft. The king knew personally of the reality of the infernal power of witches: his News from Scotland records his presidency over the trial

of a coven of witches from Forres which had plotted to use the traditional power of witches over the winds to kill James by shipwreck as he returned from a trip to Denmark. Many of the details of Shakespeare's text reflect James' interest in these specific powers of good and evil. The evidence suggests that Macbeth may well have first been performed at court before the king; doubtless James took pleasure in the influence his ideas exerted over the themes and imagery of the play.

Synopsis of Scenes

Introductory Music: Handel's Water Music

Overture and Act I Introduction to Verdi's opera, Macbeth

A C T I

- i. A Desert Heath.
- ii. A Camp near Forres.
- iii. A Desert Heath.
- iv. Forres. A Room in the Palace.
- v. Inverness--Macbeth's Castle.
- vi. Before Macbeth's Castle.
- vii. A Room in Macbeth's Castle.

A C T I I

- i. Inverness: An Inner Court
- ii. Inverness: A Court within
- iii. The Same
- iv. Outside Inverness

A C T I I I

- i. Forres. A Room in the Palace.
- ii. Forres. Another Room.
- iii. A Park with a Road Leading to
the Palace.

INTERMISSION

(20 minutes)

- iv. Forres. Banqueting Hall.
- [[v. A Heath. (Scene omitted)]]
- vi. Forres. A Room in the Palace.

A C T I V

- i. A Cavern.
- ii. Fife--Macduff's Castle
- iii. England. Before the King's Palace

A C T V

- i. Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.
- ii. The Country near Dunsinane.
- iii. Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.
- iv. Country near Birnam Wood.
- v. Dunsinane. Within the Castle.
- vi. Dunsinane. A Plain before the Castle.
- vii. Another Part of the Plain.
- viii. Another Part of the Plain.

Incidental Music: Handel's Water Music

C A S T
(in order of appearance)

1st Witch	Andrew Ramsey
2nd Witch	Christopher Clark
3rd Witch	James von Moltke
King Duncan	Mr. Geoffrey Dowd
Malcolm, son to Duncan	David Verchere
Donalbain, son to Duncan	Robert Dungan
Lennox	Steven Clark
A Bleeding Captain	Robert Hason
Ross	Nicholas Lingley
Angus	Andrew Seely
Macbeth	Vytas Gruodis
Banquo	Stephen Penner
Lady Macbeth	Nicholas Campeau
A Messenger	Murdo Murchison
Macduff	Thomas MacFarlane
Fleance, son to Banquo	Alexander Kuilman
A Servant	Adam Soutar
Porter	Fredrik Svenstedt
An Old Man	Karim Shariff
1st Murderer of Banquo	Douglas Higgins
2nd Murderer	James Soutar
3rd Murderer	David Ham
A Lord	Charles Lord
Lady Macduff	Eric Widdicombe
Boy, son to Macduff	Sean Sofin
A Messenger	Jeffrey Bray
1st Murderer	Hagen Mehnert
2nd Murderer	Penton Aylmer
3rd Murderer	David Ham
A Doctor	Karim Shariff
A Gentlewoman	Eric Widdicombe
Malcolm	Brent Sheldon
Donalbain	Christopher Naudie

A Servant to Macbeth
Seyton

Robert Sarfi
Andrew Sader

Siward, an English general Erik Blachford
Young Siward, his son Marc-André Audet

Soldiers:

Rex Chung

Charles Lord
Michael Capombassis
Paul Roman
Fenton Aylmer
Jonathan Blanshay
Robert Mason
Nicholas von Moltke

Fredrik Svenstedt
David Ham
Douglas Higgins
Jeff Bray
Robbie Drummond
Alex Thomson
Stephen Fenner

Drummer

Matthew Claener

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director and Designer Dr. Byron Harker

Technical Producer Mr. Marc Krushelnyski

Stage Manager Derek Eaton

Assistant Stage Manager Erik Blachford

Line Director Steven Clark

Artistic Consultant Miss Susan Cameron

Set Construction

Mr. Marc Krushelnyski, Supervisor
Robert Bernier, Erik Blachford, Robert
Drummond, Derek Eaton, Attila Joo,
Thomas MacFarlane, Robert Mason, David
Verchere, James von Moltke

Set Painter Mrs. Dalia Gruodis

Set Painting Crew

David Verchere, James von Moltke

Lighting Design

Mr. Marc Krushelnyski, Robert Bernier

Lighting Crew

Robert Bernier, Head; Marc-André Audet,
Thomas Hood, Mr. Marc Krushelnyski,
Sean Sofin, Nicholas von Moltke

Sound Effects Recordist Mr. Warren Reid

Sound Crew

Sean Siev, Head; Phillippe Thompson

Properties Crew

Marc-André Audet, Manager
Jonathan Blanshay

Stage Crew

Attila Joo, Head
Marc-André Audet, Fenton Aylmer, Erik
Blachford, Michael Capombassis, Robert
Drummond, Eric Gilman, Murdo Murchison,
Paul Roman, Adam Soutar, Alexander
Thomson, Nicholas von Moltke

Costume Cutters and Seamstresses

Mrs. Helen Bourne, Pattern Maker
Mrs. Sybil Ham, Mrs. Janice Higgins,
Mrs. Nora Ramsey, Mrs. Helgi Soutar,
Mrs. Betty Welsford, mothers and friends
of cast members

Costume Master

Eric Widdicombe
Andrew Ramsey, Aide

Some Costumes from The National Theater
School, the Centaur Theater, the
Lakeshore Players

Make-Up

Miss Susan Cameron

Assisted by Fredrik Svenstedt, Mrs. Helgi
Soutar, and other mothers and friends of
cast members

Make-Up Master

Fredrik Svenstedt

Special Effects

Hallucinated Dagger by David Ham
Severed Head by Francesco Fato
Apparitions and Show of Kings by
Dr. Harker
Fog Machine by courtesy of Ian Aitken

Dry Ice and Cauldron by courtesy of
Mr. John Blachford
Daggers by David Ham

Business Manager

Jeffrey Bray

Publicity and House Management

Karim Shariff, Director
Mark Jany, John Kelly, Andrew Seely,
Brent Sheldon, James von Moltke,
Eric Widdicombe, and many of the Soldiers

Swordsmaster

M. Robert Desjarlais

Fights Choreographed by Vytas Gruodis, Marc-
André Audet, and Thomas MacFarlane

Script Editor

Dr. Byron Harker
Derek Eaton

Program and Notes

Dr. Byron Harker
Karim Shariff

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the teachers, students, parents and others who have so generously devoted their time and efforts to the various areas of the production.

We are especially grateful to the administration of Selwyn House School for allowing our production to be presented.

Thanks to Mr. Robin Wearing and his staff--especially Mr. Peter Govan--for sacrificing the gymnasium and the physical education program to us, and for supporting us so willingly.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to the students in the Grades 10 and 11 Art classes for painting our splendid banners and posters; and to those in the Grades 8 and 9 Art classes for painting our stunning shields. Thanks to Mrs. Ellen Pinchuk for her support and inspiration.

Thanks to Col. J. Ralph Harper and the St. Andrew's Society for the loan of their wonderful baronial banners, and to Mrs. Helgi Soutar for her kind intercessions.

Thanks to Edwin Taguchi for his poster design.

Special thanks to Mr. H. Penner, who donated some 25 pairs of tights.

Thanks to Mrs. Dalia Gruodis for her evocative Set Painting and for her friendly encouragement.

Thanks to Mrs. Virginia Ferguson, Mrs. Janet Blachford, Mr. Jack Martin, and Mrs. Kelly for lending us some valuable properties.

Thanks to Mrs. Carole Manning for her advice and for her help in borrowing lights from McGill's Drama Department.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mr. Warren Reid for his patience, expertise, and good taste; and for guiding the director through his crises.

Thanks to Mrs. Christine Krushelnyski for copying our posters, tickets, and programs; and for giving up her husband for the duration.

Thanks to Waybrei Electric for altering our electrical wiring to handle the lighting.

Thanks to Nina and the kitchen staff for helping with intermission refreshments and for allowing us occasional use of the dining room.

Thanks to Mrs. Betty Donaldson for her help with finances and cash and for her cheer.

Thanks to Mrs. Caroline Cooper for her interest and support and for the loan of her sewing machine.

Many kisses and best wishes to Miss Susan Cameron, who interrupted her wedding preparations to come to us on a rescue mission.

Thanks to David Verchere and his parents for providing us with a beautiful set of copies of the cueing script.

GREAT AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE to Mr. Marc Krushelnyski, who has given up his holidays and all the days and nights since then to build our sets, put up our lights, mount our banners, procure our supplies, and inspire us to realize something we had not imagined was possible.

